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BIBLIOTHECA BODLEIANA

A French Prophecy:

OR, AN

Admonition to the English,

CONCERNING

Their near approaching Danger, and the Means to Escape it.

BEING

A *Prediction* of a Gentleman of Quality in *Languedoc*, concerning the Downfall of the *French King*, and several other Things relating to *England*.

To which is added,

A fuller Account of Archbishop *Usher*'s Prophecy than has ever yet been Printed, (agreeing with this,) and attested by the Lord Chief Justice *Hale*, and another Person of Honour.

Translated from the *French* Copy. Licens'd Feb. 25. 1690.

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Avis pour les Fidelles d'Angleterre.

IL faut être dans un grand aveuglement pour ne s'être pas apperceu, que la colere de Dieu paroit alummée depuis long temps preſque ſur toutes les parties de l'Europe, de ſorte qu'il ſemble que Dieu vueille comme par un nouveau deluge exterminer toute chair ; puiſqu'il n'eſt que trop uray qu'elle s'eſt portée á toute ſorte d'excés. L'indignation du Tout-puiſſant a commencé á le reſpandre en particulier preſque ſur tous ceux, qui portent le nom des Proteſtans. Ces raiſons devoient nous porter a nous amender & nous corriger de nos vices ; Mais le Ciel & la terre ſont Temoins que nous n'avons ſçeu qu c'eſtoit d'affliger nos Ames & amender le train de nôtre vie ; C'eſt auſſi pour cela que les jugemens de Dieu (dont nous n'avons tenu Conte, Lorſque leur decret a tant & tant de fois ſi epouvantablement enfanté) ſe ſont tous jours renforcées. L'Experience nous la fait voir en France, n'ayant pas profité des avis qui nous avoyent ête donnes.

Il y a plus de vingt ans que je receus une lettre, qui m'apprennoit nos malheurs & me marquoit le moien de les prevenir, qui étoit d'aſſembler les Intendants Paſteurs & Anciens de l'Egliſe & leur dire de faire faire, une Jeune de trois jours á la premiere Egliſe qui ſeroit attaquée & qu'on en verroit les effets. Je negligai cet avis, non ſçachant d'ou il venoit. Mais environ dix ans apres l'ayant ſçeu, & vu arriver bien de choſes qui m'avoyent été marquées, j'en parlay á ces Meſſieurs, qui n'en profitoyent pas : Ce qui nous a fait voir de façheuſes ſuittes. Il y a en Angleterre pluſieurs Miniſtres qui eſtoient preſens Lorſque je leur vis voir la lettre, qui m'avoit été envoyée.

Madam de Turene, Monſieur de Rouvigny, & Monſieur Gaches Miniſtre de l'Egliſe de Charonton curent les mêmes avis que moy, le Synode en eut en ſuite & l'auteur voyant qu'on n'en profitoit pas m'ecrivoit en ces Termes.

Un Vaiſſeau ogitè d'une rude Tempete en piteux êtat. Lorſqu'nn Enfant, n'avant su eveiller les Matelots pout ſortir les eaux qu'il y voioit entrer, eſt enfin

An ADMONITION to the Chriſtians of *England.*

HE muſt be very blind, who perceives not that the Wrath of GOD hath long ſince been kindled againſt all parts almoſt of Europe ; *ſo that he ſeems reſolved to deſtroy all Fleſh* again *as it were with a New Delage, ſince it is but too true, that they have abandon'd themſelves to all kind of Wickedneſs.* But *the Indignation of the Almighty hath begun to manifeſt it ſelf* more *eſpecially againſt thoſe who are called Proteſtants.* And *by thoſe means ought we to have been induced to Repentance and the Reformation of our Manners. But Heaven and Earth are Witneſs, that we have not ſo much as known,* or well conſidered, *What it is to afflict our Souls and amend our Lives. Hence it is that the Judgments of God, which we ſo little regarded, though the Decree hath again and again brought forth ſo terribly, have been daily more and more increaſing. This we in* France *have been made to ſee by Experience, ſince we neglected the Admonitions which were given to us.*

It is now twenty years and upwards, *ſince I received a Letter, which admoniſhed Me of Our approaching Miſeries* [*in* France,] *and the Means to prevent them : Which were, to call together the Governours of our Church, and acquaint them that they ſhould appoint a three days Faſt in that Church, which ſoever ſhould firſt be attach'd,* [*by Proceſs by our Enemies* ;] *and they ſhould ſee the Effects thereof. But I neglected that advice, not knowing whence it came. But about* ten years after, *when I underſtood that, and ſaw the Event of much of that which was foretold, I acquainted thoſe Gentlemen with it : But they regarded not what I ſaid. Which made the Conſequence ſo ſad. There are now in* England *divers Miniſters, who were preſent when I ſhewed the Letter which was ſent me.*

The ſame Advice which was given to me, was ſent alſo to Madam Turone, *and to the Sieur* Rouvigny, *and to Mr.* Gache *Miniſter of* Charenton, *and to the Synod of* Languedock. *And when the Author, who ſent theſe Admonitions, underſtood that nothing was done thereupon, he wrote thus to me :*

Very unhappy is that Ship, which being ſhaken in a grievous Storm, the Mariners will not be rouſed even by a Child to pump out the Water,

en-fin obligé de crier; ſauve qui peut. Malheur á qui n'aime le Seigneur Jeſus & ne porte tous les jours ce Divin Crucifié dans ſon Ceur.

Il y a environ huiet a neuf ans que je receus un coup de Foudre de jour; j'avois été averti de de ce coup trois ans avant qu'il tomba ſur moy & par trois diverſes fois: Ce coup fut ſuivi environ ſix ſemaines apres d'un coup de Tonnerre, qui tomba de nuit (dont même etoit averti.) Je fus obligé de faire eveiller tous ceux, qui eſtoyent chez moy au lict: Nous fuſmes au lieu ou je faiſois precher; je faiſois lire la parole de Dieu, lorſque le Tonnere tomba ſous mes pieds: Le lieu ou nous eſtions eſtoit pavé & les rochers au deſſous: Ou entendoit gronder le Tonner ſous moy, qui eſtois eloigné d'eux neanmoins, dans le même endroit, auſſi fort qu'l a accoutumé de faire; Il y fut aſſez de tems; Nous ne diſcontinuaſmes pas pourtant la lecture de l'Ecriture ſainte. Ces furent des coups terribles & myſtnrieux preſages & avantcourreurs des maux pres á fondre ſur la France & ſur l'Angleterre: Il y a en Angleterre plnſieurs Perſonnes qui eſtoyent ches moy lorſque ces choſes ſe paſſereat: Ils en ignoroyent le Myſtere, mais je puis bien prouver ce que j'avance.

Etant en Etat de quitter la Province ou je faiſois mon ſejour, il y a environ cinq á ſix ans, l'auteur des avis, qui a rêcu d'uue vie ſi chretienne qu'on ne luy ſçauroit rien imputer & á qui Dieu a fait de Graces ſi extraordinaires que je ne penſe pas que depuis pluſiers ſiecles on ait oui parler de ſemblables, me donna un depôt cachete, & me dit le tems que je devois l'ouuir; Il avoit au commencent de cet écrit.

O Roy un plus grand Roy que Toy te commande: ſonge aut conte que tu dois rendre plutôt que tu ne penſes: Et a fin, O Angleterre ſi tu te rends complice du crime Tu auras part á la peine.

L'orage eſt furieux rempli d'horreur & de carnage, Tachez á le prevenir á fin que votre Contree ſoit une Contre de paix, une Iſle fortunée, & un jardpin d Eden: C'eſt le ſouhait de

Votre tres obeiſſant Serviteur, Saint Jean.

Guettes Iſrael c'eſt ici le tems de veiller & de prier, C'eſt le tems de cries á plein goſier & de ne ſe point epargner, ſonnez du Cornet en Sion, Reveillez les Peuples endormis, Inſiſtez en tems & hors tems, & Ditez hardiment á Jeruſalem, qu'elle ſe repente á fin qu'il y ait Paix pour elle & non une ſouddain deſtruction: Car le Tonnere a grondé.

Water, which he ſees running in, till he be forced to cry out, *Every one ſhift for himſelf.* Wo to him who loves not our Lord *Jeſus*, and doth not carry the Divine Crucified One daily in his Heart.

About Eight or Nine years ſince *a ſudden ſtroke as of* Thunder *ſtruck me down in the Day-time (about Eight in the Morning) according to three ſeveral Warnings thereof given to me three years before. This was followed about ſix Weeks after by a Thunder in the Night: Whereof I had alſo been admoniſhed. Whereupon I called up all who were in Bed in my Houſe; and we went into the Room where we uſed to have Prayers, and there read the Scriptures. While that was doing it Thundered under my Feet, though the place was paved and upon a Rock. We all heard the Noiſe of Thunder* (directly) *under Me (who was at a diſtance from them, though all in the ſame Room) as loud as it uſed to be* in the Air, *and for ſome time. Yet we left not off our Reading the Scriptures. Thoſe were terrible Claps, and myſterious Preſages and Forerunners of the Calamities, which are ready to break out upon the Kingdoms of* France *and* England. *There are in* England *ſeveral perſons who were at my Houſe when theſe things happened: They underſtood not the Myſtery of them: but I am able to prove what I here declare.*

About five or ſix years ſince, *when I was to leave the Countrey where I dwelt, the Author of theſe Admonitions,* (*who lived ſo Chriſtian a Life as none could blame, and whom God had favoured with ſuch extraordinary Graces, as few, I believe, in ſeveral Ages have heard the like,*) *depoſited with me a ſealed Paper; and told me the time when I ſhould open it. In the begining were theſe words:*

O King, (*meaning the French King,*) a greater King than thee commands [*or rules*] thee: conſider of the Reckoning thou art to make, ſooner than thou thinkeſt. *And in the End,*

O *England*, if thou make thy ſelf partaker in the Crime, thou ſhalt take part in the puniſhment.

The Storm is violent, full of Horror and Deſtruction: Endeavour to prevent it, that your Countrey may be a Countrey of Peace, a Fortunate Iſland and a Garden of Eden: *Which is the hearty deſire of*

Your moſt obedient Servant, *Saint Jean.*

Poſtſcript.] *You, who are Watchmen of* Iſrael *this is the time to Watch and to Pray, this is the time to cry aloud and ſpare not: Sound the Trumpet in* Sion; *Awaken the ſleeping People: Be inſtant in ſeaſon, and out of ſeaſon, and ſpeak boldly to* Jeruſalem, *that ſhe repent, that ſo Peace may be with her and not ſudden Deſtruction; for the Thunder has already begun.*

Archbiſhop USHER's PREDICTIONS.

THe Year before he died, being asked, *Whether he did believe that Great Perſecution of the Church of God in* England, Scotland *and* Ireland, (of which he had ſpoken with great confidence many years before in time of great Peace) *to be paſſed, or yet to come?* He ſaid, *That it was yet to come, and that he did as confidently expect it, as ever he had done*; adding, *That this ſaid Perſecution would fall upon all the Proteſtant Churches of* Europe. And when it was anſwered, It might be hoped that it might have been paſt in theſe Nations, by reaſon of the Deva[illegible]tation and Bloodſhed which had been in the late Civil War: He replied with a very ſerious and ſtern Look,

'Fool not your ſelf with ſuch Hopes; for I tell you, All you have yet ſeen, hath been but the 'Beginning of Sorrows, to what is yet to come upon the Proteſtant Churches of Chriſt: Who will 'e're long fall under a Sharper Perſecution than ever yet has been upon them. And therefore 'look you be not found in the *Outward Court*, but a Worſhipper in the *Temple* before the Altar. 'For Chriſt will meaſure all thoſe who profeſs his Name, and call themſelves his People; and the '*Outward Worſhippers* he will leave out to be trodden down by the *Gentiles*. The *Outward Court* is 'the *Formal Chriſtian*, whoſe Religion lies in performing the *Out-ſide Duties* of Chriſtianity, without 'having an *Inward Life* and Power of Faith and Love Uniting them to Chriſt. And thoſe God will 'leave to be trodden down and ſwept away by the *Gentiles*. But the *Worſhippers within the Temple* 'and *before the Altar*, are thoſe who do indeed worſhip God in Spirit and in Truth, whoſe Souls 'are made his Temple, and he is honoured and adored in the moſt inward Thoughts of their 'Hearts; and they ſacrifice their Luſts and vile Affections, yea, and their own Wills to him. And 'theſe God will hide in the Hollow of his Hand, and under the Shadow of his Wings. And this 'ſhall be one great *Difference* between this laſt and all the other preceding Perſecutions: For in 'the former, the moſt eminent and ſpiritual Miniſters and Chriſtians did generally ſuffer moſt, 'and were moſt violently fallen upon; but in this laſt Perſecution, theſe ſhall be preſerved by God 'as a Seed to partake of that *Glory*, which ſhall immediately follow and come upon the Church, 'as ſoon as this Storm ſhall be over: For as it ſhall be the *Sharpeſt*, ſo it ſhall be the *Shorteſt* Per-'ſecution of them all; and ſhall only take away the groſs *Hypocrites* and *Formal Profeſſors*; but the '*true Spiritual Believers* ſhall be preſerved till the Calamity be overpaſſed.

To this I think very pertinent that Excellent Paſſage of his to the ſame Perſon, concerning *Sanctification*, in theſe words:

'I muſt tell you, We do not well underſtand what *Sanctification* and the *New Creature* are. It 'is no leſs than for a Man to be brought to an intire Reſignation of his Will to the Will of God; 'and to live in the offering up of his Soul continually in the flames of Love, as a whole Burnt-'Offering to Chriſt. And how little are many of thoſe, who profeſs Chriſtianity, experimentally 'acquainted with this Work on their Souls!

Some *Circumſtances* of the Perſecution aforeſaid are mentioned in the Printed Paper of his Pre-dictions, to which I refer the Reader. But one there is not mentioned there, or ever by him expreſly, that I have heard of, *viz.* the *Time*. Of which yet it may be obſerved, that he ſeems in ſeveral Diſcourſes to have intimated it ſo, as it muſt be now *very near*, by telling ſome Perſons, *viz.* ſuch as were ancient, that they ſhould not live to ſee it, and others that they might, that is by courſe of years, and among others Judge *Hale*, who, had he been now living, had been upwards of Eighty one. Beſides, if the ſame was ſignified by the Thunder under-ground mentioned by Mr. *St. Fean*, that ſeems to agree well with the *Manner* mentioned by the *Archbiſhop*, of a ſudden unexpected Maſſacre.

LONDON, Printed for *J. Harris* in the *Poultrey*, 1691.

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Avis pour les Fidelles d'Angleterre.

IL faut être dans un grand aveuglement pour ne s'être pas apperceu, que la colere de Dieu paroit allumée depuis long temps preſque ſur toutes les parties de l'Europe, de ſorte qu'il ſemble que Dieu vueille comme par un nouveau Deluge exterminer toute chair ; puiſqu'il n'eſt que trop vray qu'elle s'eſt portée à toute ſorte d'excés. L'indignation du Tout-puiſſant a commencé à le reſpandre en particulier preſque ſur tous ceux, qui portent le nom des Proteſtans. Ces raiſons devoient nous porter a nous amender & nous corriger de nos vices ; Mais le Ciel & la terre ſont Temoins que nous n'avons ſçeu ou n'eſtoit d'affliger nos Ames & amender le train de nôtre vie ; C'eſt auſſi pour cela que les Jugemens de Dieu (dont nous n'avons tenu Conte, Lorſque leur decret a tant & tant de fois ſi épouvantablement enfanté) ſe ſont tous jours renforcées. L'Experience nous la fait voir en France, n'ayant pas profité des avis qui nous avoyent été donnés.

Il y a plus de vingt ans que je receus une lettre, qui m'apprennoit nos malheurs & me marquoit le moien de les prevenir, qui étoit d'aſſembler les Intendants Paſteurs & Anciens de l'Egliſe & leur dire de faire faire, une Jeune de trois jours á la premiere Egliſe qui ſeroit attaquée & qu'on en verroit les effets. Je negligai cet avis, non ſçachant d'ou il venoit. Mais environ dix ans apres l'ayant ſçeu, & vu arriver bien de choſes qui m'avoyent été marquées, j'en parlay á ces Meſſieurs, qui n'en profitoyent pas : Ce qui nous a fait voir de fachenſes ſuittes. Il y a en Angleterre pluſieurs Miniſtres qui eſtoient preſens Lorſque je leur vis voir la lettre, qui m'avoit été envoyée.

Madam de Turene, Monſieur de Rouvigny, & Monſieur Gaches Miniſtre de l'Egliſe de Charonton eurent les mêmes avis que moy, le Synode en eut en ſuite & l'auteur voyant qu'on n'en profitoit pas m'ecrivoit en ces Termes.

Un Vaiſſeau agité d'une rude Tempete en pitieux état. Lorſqu'un Enfant, n'ayant pu eveiller les Matelots pour ſortir les eaux qu'il y voioit entrer, eſt en fin

An ADMONITION to the Chriſtians of *England.*

HE muſt be very blind, who perceives not that the Wrath of GOD hath long ſince been kindled againſt all parts almoſt of Europe, ſo that he ſeems reſolved to destroy all Flesh again as it were with a New Deluge, ſince it is but too true, that they have abandon'd themſelves to all kind of Wickedneſs. But the Indignation of the Almighty hath begun to manifeſt it ſelf more eſpecially againſt thoſe who are called Proteſtants. And *by thoſe means ought we to have been induced to Repentance and the Reformation of our Manners. But Heaven and Earth are Witneſs, that we have not ſo much as known,* or well conſidered, *What it is to afflict our Souls and amend our Lives. Hence it is that the Judgments of God, which we ſo little regarded, though the Decree hath again and again brought forth ſo terribly, have been daily more and more increaſing. This we in* France *have been made to ſee by Experience, ſince we neglected the Admonitions which were given to us.*

It is now twenty years and upwards, *ſince I received a Letter, which adminiſtred Me of Our approaching Miſeries* [in France] *and the Means to prevent them : Which were, to call together the Governours of our Church, and acquaint them that they ſhould appoint a three days Faſt in that Church, which ſoever ſhould firſt be attack'd,* [*by Proteſts by our Enemies*] *and they ſhould ſee the Effects thereof. But I neglected the Admonition, not knowing whence it came. But about* ten years after, *when I underſtood that, and ſaw the Event of much of that which was foretold, I acquainted thoſe Gentlemen with it : But they regarded not what I ſaid. Which made the Conſequence ſo ſad. There are now in* England *divers Miniſters, who were preſent when I ſhewed the Letter which was ſent me.*

The ſame Advice which was given to me, was ſent alſo to Madam Turone, *and to the Sieur* Rouvigny, *and to Mr.* Gache *Miniſter of* Charenton, *and to the Synod of* Languedock. *And when the Author, who ſent theſe Admonitions, underſtood that nothing was done thereupon, he wrote thus to me:*

Very unhappy is that Ship, which being ſhaken in a grievous Storm, the Mariners will not be rouſed even by a Child to pump out the Water,

en-fin obligé de crier; ſauve qui peut. Malheur á qui n'aime le Seigneur Jeſus & ne porte tous les jours ce Divin Crucifié dans ſon Cœur.

Il y a environ huiet a neuf ans que je receus un coup de Foudre de jour; j'avois été averti de ce coup trois ans avant qu'il tomba ſur moy & par trois diverſes fois: Ce coup fut ſuivi environ ſix ſemaines apres d'un coup de Tonnerre, qui tomba de nuit (dont même etoit averti.) Je fus obligé de faire eveiller tous ceux, qui eſtoyent chez moy au lict: Nous fuſmes au lieu ou je faiſois precher; je faiſois lire la parole de Dieu, lorſque le Tonnere tomba ſous mes pieds: Le lieu ou nous eſtions eſtoit pavé & les rochers au deſſous: Ou entendoit gronder le Tonner ſous moy, qui eſtois eloigné d'eux neanmoins, dans le même endroit, auſſi fort qu'il a accoutumé de faire; Il y fut aſſez de tems; Nous ne diſcontinuaſmes pas pourtant la lecture de l'Ecriture ſainte. Ces fiirent des coups terribles & myſtrieux preſages & avantcourreurs des maux pres á fondre ſur la France & ſur l'Angleterre: Il y a en Angleterre pluſieurs Perſonnes qui eſtoyent chés moy lorſque ces choſes ſe paſſerent: Ils en ignoroyent le Myſtere, mais je puis bien prouver ce que j'avance.

Etant en Etat de quitter la Province ou je faiſois mon ſejour, il y a environ cinq á ſix ans, l'auteur des avis, qui a reçu d'une vie ſi chretienne qu'on ne luy ſçauroit rien imputer & á qui Dieu a fait de Graces ſi extraordinaires que je ne penſe pas que depuis pluſiers ſiecles on ait oui parler de ſemblables, me donna un depôt cachete, & me dit le tems que je devois l'ouuir; Il avoit au commencent de cet écrit.

O Roy un plus grand Roy que Toy te commande: ſonge aux conte que tu dois rendre pluſôt que tu ne penſes: Et a fin, O Angleterre ſi tu te rends complice du crime Tu auras part á la peine.

L'orage eſt furieux rempli d'horreur & de carnage, Tachez á le prevenir á fin que votre Contree ſoit une Contre de paix, une Iſle fortunée, & un jardpin d Eden: C'eſt le ſouhait de

Votre tres obeiſſant Serviteur, Saint Jean.

Guettes Iſrael c'eſt ici le tems de veiller & de prier; C'eſt le tems de cries á plein goſier & de ne ſe point epargner, ſonnez du Cornet en Sion, Reveillez les Peuples endormis, Inſiſtez en tems & hors tems, & Ditez hardiment á Jeruſalem, qu'elle ſe repente á fin qu'il y ait Paix pour elle ſinon une ſouddain deſtruction [illegible] rondé

Water, which he ſees running in, till he forced to cry out, *Every one ſhift for himſ* Woe to him who loves not our Lord *Jeſus*, doth not carry the Divine Crucified One da in his Heart.

About Eight or Nine years ſince *a ſudd ſtroke as of* Thunder *ſtruck me down in t Day-time (about Eight in the Morning) accordi to three ſeveral Warnings therof given to me thre years before. This was followed about ſix Week after by a Thunder in the Night: Wherof I ha alſo been admoniſhed. Whereupon I called up all who were in Bed in my Houſe; and we went into the Room where we uſed to have Prayers, and there read the Scripturts. While that was doing it Thundered under my Feet, though the place was paved and upon a Rock. We all heard the Noiſe of Thunder* (directly) *under Me (who was at a diſtance from them, though all in the ſame Room) as loud as it uſed to be* in the Air, *and for ſome time. Yet we left not off our Reading the Scriptures. Thoſe were terrible Claps, and myſterious Preſages and Forerunners of the Calamities, which are ready to break out upon the Kingdoms of France and England. There are in England ſeveral perſons who were at my Houſe when theſe things happened: They underſtood not the Myſtery of them: but I am able to prove what I here declare.*

About five or ſix years ſince, *when I was to leave the Country where I dwelt, the Author of theſe Admonitions, (who lived ſo Chriſtian a Life as none could blame, and whom God had favoured with ſuch extraordinary Graces, as few, I believe, in ſeveral Ages have heard the like,) depoſited with me a ſealed Paper; and told me the time when I ſhould open it. In the beginning were theſe words:*

O King, (*meaning the French King,*) a greater King than thee commands [*or rules*] thee: conſider of the Reckoning thou art to make, ſooner than thou thinkeſt. *And in the End,*

O *England*, if thou make thy ſelf partaker in the Crime, thou ſhalt take part in the puniſhment.

The Storm is violent, full of Horror and Deſtruction: Endeavour to prevent it, that your Country may be a Country of Peace, a Fortunate Iſland, and a Garden of Eden: *Which is the hearty deſire of*

Your moſt obedient Servant, *Saint Jean.*

Poſtſcript.] *You, who are Watchmen of* Iſrael, *this is the time to Watch and to Pray, this is the time to cry aloud and ſpare not: Sound the Trumpet in* Sion; *Awaken the ſleeping People: Be inſtant in ſeaſon, and out of ſeaſon, and ſpeak boldly to* Jeruſalem, *that ſhe repent, that ſo Peace may be unto her,*

Archbishop USHER's PREDICTIONS.

THe Year before he died, being asked, *Whether he did believe that Great Persecution of the Church of God in* England, Scotland *and* Ireland, (of which he had spoken with great confidence many years before in time of great Peace) *to be passed, or yet to come?* He said, *That it was yet to come, and that he did as confidently expect it, as ever he had done*; adding, *That that sad Persecution should fall upon all the Protestant Churches of* Europe. And when it was answered, It might be hoped that it might have been past in these Nations, by reason of the Devastation and Bloodshed which had been in the late Civil War: He replied with a very serious and stern Look,

'Fool not your self with such Hopes; for I tell you, All you have yet seen, hath been but the Beginning of Sorrows, to what is yet to come upon the Protestant Churches of Christ: Who will ere long fall under a Sharper Persecution than ever yet has been upon them. And therefore look you be not found in the *Outward Court*, but a Worshipper in the *Temple* before the Altar. For Christ will measure all those who profess his Name, and call themselves his People; and the *Outward Worshippers* he will leave out to be trodden down by the *Gentiles*. The *Outward Court* is the *Formal Christian*, whose Religion lies in performing the *Out-side Duties* of Christianity, without having an *Inward Life*, and Power of Faith and Love Uniting them to Christ. And those God will leave to be trodden down and swept away by the *Gentiles*. But the *Worshippers within the Temple* and *before the Altar*, are those who do indeed worship God in Spirit and in Truth, whose Souls are made his Temple, and he is honoured and adored in the most inward Thoughts of their Hearts; and they sacrifice their Lusts and vile Affections, yea, and their own Wills to him. And those God will hide in the Hollow of his Hand, and under the Shadow of his Wings. And this shall be one great *Difference* between this last and all the other preceding Persecutions: For in the former, the most eminent and spiritual Ministers and Christians did generally suffer most, and were most violently fallen upon; but in this last Persecution, these shall be preserved by God as a Seed to partake of that *Glory*, which shall immediately follow and come upon the Church, as soon as this Storm shall be over: For as it shall be the *Sharpest*, so it shall be the *Shortest* Persecution of them all; and shall only take away the gross *Hypocrites* and *Formal Professors*; but the *true Spiritual Believers* shall be preserved till the Calamity be overpassed.

To this I think very pertinent that Excellent Passage of his to the same Person, concerning *Sanctification*, in these words:

'I must tell you, We do not well understand what *Sanctification* and the *New Creature* are. It is no less than for a Man to be brought to an intire Resignation of his Will to the Will of God; and to live in the offering up of his Soul continually in the flames of Love, as a whole Burnt-Offering to Christ. And how little are many of those, who profess Christianity, experimentally acquainted with this Work on their Souls!

Some *Circumstances* of the Persecution aforesaid are mentioned in the Printed Paper of his Predictions, to which I refer the Reader. But one there is not mentioned there, or ever by him expressly, that I have heard of, *viz.* the *Time*. Of which yet it may be observed, that he seems in divers Discourses to have intimated it so, as it must be now *very near*, by telling some Persons, *viz.* such as were ancient, that they should not live to see it, and others that they might, that is by course of years, and among others Judge *Hale*, who, had he been now living, had been upwards of Eighty one. Besides, if the same was signified by the Thunder under-ground mentioned by *Mr. St. Fohn*, that seems to agree well with the *Manner* mentioned by the *Archbishop*, of a sudden unexpected Massacre.

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